## Testimony of Antoinette Humes March 10, 2014 – Judiciary Committee Re: S.B. No. 31 Concerning Continued Delivery Of Legal Services To The Poor

My name is Antoinette Humes and I am here to share my thoughts on the state budget for legal services.

I began working with Legal aid over 10 years ago when my four children and I lost almost everything as a result of flooding in my apartment. New Haven Legal Assistance helped me to get new furniture and clothing for me and my children. Since then there have been several occasions where NHLAA has been there for me when I needed an advocate.

The people who use legal aid are those in our communities who desperately need help. NHLAA stood up for me and helped me have a stronger voice in my time of need. The funding that is provided to legal aid is essential because it helps those individuals in our community who are most in need. Without the help of NHLAA I do not know what my children and I would have done. I urge you to continue to support the New Haven Legal Assistance Association in its mission to aid low income individuals and families.

Thank you.